

who have not enrolled will be charged an extra 1 percent of the payment of any plan they eventually do choose, for the rest of their lives.

This new tax on prescription drugs is yet another example of how this Republican plan was written to benefit large drug companies, not the Medicare recipients who need the help.

Democrats are fighting to extend this deadline. Our seniors should not be penalized with a lifetime surcharge for doing their research on these plans.

IS THIS THE DEMOCRATS' AGENDA?

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this week a resolution was introduced in the United States Senate that would censure President Bush over the National Security Agency's surveillance program. We have seen the Democrats launch political stunts before, but this one certainly takes the cake.

They have determined, on their own, that President Bush has broken the law by authorizing surveillance of al Qaeda communications. They are so intent on opposing everything that President Bush is for that they don't seem to realize or even care about the message this sends to the rest of the world as we fight the war on terror.

The fact is, this is a necessary tool in the war on terror, and it is working. As General Michael Hayden, the principle Deputy Director of National Intelligence stated, "We have learned information from this program that would not otherwise have been available. This information has helped detect and prevent terrorist attacks in the United States and abroad."

Mr. Speaker, the Democrats have put off releasing their agenda for months now. I guess I can see why, since it includes stripping away important tools to fight the war on terror. Perhaps the Democrats should go back to having no agenda.

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WE NEED TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE FOR MEDICARE PART D SIGN-UP

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, President Bush went to New York yesterday to tout his confusing and failing prescription drug plan for seniors.

The Bush administration has botched this plan since day one. For one, Medicare itself put out all kinds of wrong information that increased confusion among already frustrated seniors. Second, low-income seniors that were promised an easy transition from State programs to Federal programs ran into

huge problems, leaving some seniors no choice but to go without their drugs. Third, States were forced to step in and pick up the tab for the Federal Government's incompetence. It is no wonder that only about five million seniors have willingly signed up for the plan.

Seniors should not be penalized for the Bush administration's incompetence. Unfortunately, that is exactly what will happen if President Bush does not extend the deadline for seniors to sign up for the plan.

Two months from today, May 15, is the deadline for seniors to sign up for a plan; and if they do not, the administration will permanently increase their premium with a 1 percent penalty for every month they wait to sign up.

Democrats want this deadline extended, and we want to fix the drug plan so it works for seniors and the disabled and not just the drug and insurance companies.

EXTEND THE DRUG BENEFIT DEADLINE

(Mr. BISHOP of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, the Medicare drug program is off to a rocky start, as President Bush put it yesterday.

Following a dozen town hall meetings I have held in my district on the part D benefit, my constituents remain confused and doubtful that the drug plan will work for them. As a result, many seniors on Long Island have not yet signed up. Many of those who have chosen a plan are encountering delays in their applications and will not receive their drug cards until after the May 15 sign-up deadline.

Adding insult to injury, seniors will be penalized with a 1 percent premium increase for every month after the deadline passes. This Bush Medicare penalty should not be piled on top of the already overwhelming burden of understanding the drug benefit.

Mr. Speaker, America's seniors deserve real help keeping up with soaring prescription drug costs. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support a 6-month extension of the sign-up deadline so that seniors are not punished and they receive the affordable life-saving drugs they deserve.

DEFINING DEVIANCY DOWN

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan described the process by which perverse behavior slowly becomes accepted by society over time. He called it "defining deviancy down."

A recent newswire story illustrates his point. The story reports that Germany's sex industry is gearing up to handle a record demand for prostitu-

tion during the 2006 World Cup soccer tournament.

One man involved in the criminal underworld of German prostitution told the reporter, "Football and prostitution are a great match. What else could you hope for?"

What else could you hope for? Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the evils of prostitution and human trafficking be condemned by society, not flaunted. I would hope for an end to sexual exploitation of women and children. I would hope for some sanity to prevail in the civilized country of Germany.

The story also reports that there are an estimated 15,000 victims of sex trafficking in Germany at any given time. That, Mr. Speaker, is the real cost of defining deviancy down.

MILITARY RECRUITERS AT COLLEGES

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Supreme Court for upholding the Solomon amendment, which permits the withholding of Federal funds from colleges that close their doors to military recruiters.

This case is a glaring indictment of our liberal influence within our colleges and institutions of higher learning, these spineless liberals who speak of the concept of allowing differing points of view, but in reality they oppose it.

Look no further than one of our Nation's most liberal colleges, Yale University. Last year, it admitted a Taliban spokesman as a special student, even as Yale Law School was suing in Federal Court to ban U.S. military recruiters from its campus.

As Americans, we should be appalled with this seditious behavior and hold these liberals accountable for their actions. Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court's verdict last week is a victory for common sense and for the protection of our country against liberal lunacy.

POLL BRINGS POSITIVE NEWS

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, a poll was released today which reaffirms what many on this side of the aisle, Republicans, are telling seniors at our town hall meetings: The Medicare prescription drug program is working.

In a poll conducted last week by Ayres, McHenry & Associates, 6 out of 10 seniors who voluntarily enrolled in the Medicare Part D program reported that they are saving money in the program.

A second survey by the same group found that 9 out of 10 seniors eligible for Medicare and Medicaid, dual eligibles, stated that they were having no